

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

OMB-01 RSR-01 /096 W

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R 241054Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9551

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 6696

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, XF

SUBJECT: LABOR PARTY DOCUMENT ON POLICY TOWARD OCCUPIED TERRITORIES:
PROSPECTS FOR ADOPTION

1. LABOR PARTY MINISTERS' RECOMMENDATIONS ON POLICY IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES IN THE NEXT FOUR YEARS, AS INDICATED IN PREAMBLE OF GALILI DOCUMENT SUBMITTED TO PRIMIN AUGUST 15 (TEL AVIV 6475), WILL BE DISCUSSED BY PLATFORM COMMITTEE AND PRESENTED FOR RATIFICATION TO CENTRAL COMMITTEE IN NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS. AS EMBASSY HAS NOTED EARLIER, GALILI DOCUMENT INTENTIONALLY PRESENTED AS RECOMMENDATIONS RATHER THAN DECISIONS TO DEESCALATE SIGNIFICANCE. WHILE SOME HEATED OBJECTIONS CAN BE EXPECTED FROM DOVES SUCH AS LYOVA ELIAV IN COURSE OF DEBATE IN PLATFORM COMMITTEE, IT IS IMPROBABLE THAT CRITICISM WILL CHANGE CONTENT OF GALILI DOCUMENT IN VIEW CONSENSUS REACHED BY LABOR PARTY MINISTERS INCLUDING SAPIR. MOREOVER KEY MINISTERS GALILI AND SAPIR, AS WELL AS THEIR CLOSE ASSOCIATES, ARE ON 33 MEMBER PLATFORM COMMITTEE, ASSURING CLEAR PATH FOR GALILI DOCUMENT.

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2. DAYAN, SPEAKING TO EX-RAFI FACTION MEETING AUGUST 22,

REITERATED HIS VIEW THAT LABOR ALIGNMENT MUST GO TO ELECTORATE WITH CLEARCUT PROGRAM AND CLEAR PLATFORM. HE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH GALILI DOCUMENT NOTING THAT THESE RECOMMENDATIONS NOW HAD TO BE ACTED ON BY PARTY AND ALIGNMENT EXECUTIVE BODIES. DAYAN, IN CLEAR ATTACK ON ALIGNMENT PARTNER MAPAM, SAID ALIGNMENT CANNOT GO TO ELECTORATE WITH TOO WIDE A RANGE OF VIEWS. "WE CANNOT CHEAT THE VOTERS," HE SAID. DAYAN ALSO UNDERLINED LONGTERM IMPLICATION OF CURRENT PROPOSALS RE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, STATING THAT ISRAEL NOW HAD POSSIBILITY OF REACHING DECISION ON FUTURE BORDERS BY ITS OWN VOLITION; FOR EXAMPLE, JEWISH SETTLEMENT IN RAFAH JUNCTION AREA WOULD HAVE INSTRUMENTAL ROLE IN DETERMINATION FUTURE BORDER WITH EGYPT.

3. MAPAM'S POLITICAL COMMITTEE AUGUST 22 EXPRESSED STRONG OBJECTION TO GALILI DOCUMENT AND TO LABOR DISCUSSION WHICH IGNORED MAPAM'S VIEWPOINT IN FORMULATIVE STAGE. MAPAM CLEARLY ANGERED BY PRESENTATION AS FAIT ACCOMPLI. SECRETARY GENERAL TALMI HAS STATED THAT MAPAM PREPARED TO DISSOCIATE ITSELF FROM UNACCEPTABLE CLAUSES OF LABOR POLICY IN FORMULATION OF ALIGNMENT CAMPAIGN PLATFORM. MAPAM IS OPPOSED SPECIFICALLY TO THREE POINTS: A) LAND SALES TO EITHER PRIVATE ISRAELI CITIZENS OR PUBLIC COMPANIES; B) PERMANENT SETTLEMENTS OTHER THAN THOSE ESSENTIAL FOR SECURITY; AND C) JEWISH INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN TERRITORIES. MAPAM INTERPRETS THESE AS ELEMENTS OF DE FACTO ANNEXATION, BARRIERS TO EVENTUAL PEACE NEGOTIATION, AND CAPITALIST EXPLOITATION OF ARABS.

4. COMMENT. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT GALILI DOCUMENT WILL BE ADOPTED AS FOUNDATION LABOR ALIGNMENT ELECTION PLATFORM ON TERRITORIES. HOWEVER HEATED DEBATE WITHIN LABOR PARTY AND ALIGNMENT MAY BE, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT SIGNIFICANT CHANGES WILL RESULT. THERE WILL BE INCREASED TENSION BETWEEN ALIGNMENT PARTNERS, BUT MAPAM LEVERAGE IS EXTREMELY LIMITED. ON ONE HAND, MAPAM IS UNDER PRESSURE FROM NEWLY FORMED MOKED (FOCUS) FAR-LEFT ALIGNMENT FOR SELLING OUT TO LABOR PARTY, AND FEELS COMPELLED TO INTENSIFY SHARPNESS OF ITS PUBLIC CRITICISM. ON OTHER HAND, MAPAM IS MORE DEPENDENT ON LABOR PARTY THAN IN PAST TO MAINTAIN ITS NUMERICAL STRENGTH IN KNESSET BECAUSE OF WANING ELECTORAL SUPPORT. LABOR LEADERSHIP KNOWS THAT MAPAM SELF-INTEREST LINKS IT TO ALIGNMENT AND WILL BE PREPARED TO LIVE

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WITH THREAT OF DISSOCIATION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TELAV06696
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS KEATING
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730816/aaaaales.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10-Dec-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <15-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LABOR PARTY DOCUMENT ON POLICY TOWARD OCCUPIED TERRITORIES: PROSPECTS FOR ADOPTION
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, XF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005